

Aid Targeting and Political Connection

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Abstract

Aid from local government can be an effective risk-coping strategy after natural disasters if recipients are properly targeted. Combining (i) satellite image (objective information on flood damage), (ii) administrative record (objective information on aid receipt) and (iii) unique survey data (self-reported information on damage, aid receipt and political connection) from a substantial flood event in the Philippines, we analyze the accuracy and mechanism of aid targeting, with particular focus on political connection. We find that seed aid is well-targeted for the affected farmers because of visibility of paddy submergence while other form of post-flood aid, including grocery and construction material, is favored to those with wider political connection.

Keywords: Aid targeting, Political connection, Philippines